



LE·HI·HO News

the Lehigh Valley Homophile Organization

Box 1003, Moravian Station, Bethlehem, Pa. 18018

DECEMBER 1977

elections and party

Our December 18 meeting (2:00 p.m., Unitarian Church of the Lehigh Valley, 701 Lechauseki, Fountain Hill section of Bethlehem, 2 blocks south of 1500 block of Broadway) will encompass elections to the Board of Directors. Eligible voters must have attended at least one meeting prior to December; six nominations were made at the November meeting, and new Directors will take office in January. Following the business meeting will be a Christmas Party; please bring cookies or any other seasonal goodies, as well as any Christmas records to provide atmosphere.

GAY CONFERENCE, THEOLOGIAN IN JANUARY

The first state-wide gay conference in Pennsylvania, "Pride '78", will be held at the Delaware Water Gap Howard Johnson's on January 20-21-22. Registration fee is \$13.00 in advance (mail to "Pride '78", Pa. Rural Gay Caucus, P.O. Box 1505, Harrisburg, Pa. 17105) or \$15.00 at the door and includes Saturday night banquet and Sunday breakfast. Rooms are \$13.00 per person per night, with possible reductions for four in a room. The location is the last exit off Route 80 before entering New Jersey, and schedule as follows:

Friday, Jan. 20: 9:00 p.m. Registration. Hospitality and Entertainment (Music: Rubyfruit Begonia)

Saturday, Jan. 21: 8:30 a.m. Registration and Coffee Hour.

10:00-12:30 p.m.: General Session. Elaine Noble or Tony Silvestre

12:30-5:00 p.m.: Workshops on Gay-Related topics

6:30 p.m. Banquet and Speaker (Silvestre or Noble) followed by entertainment, coffee house, and dance.

Sunday, Jan. 22: 8:30-10:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet.

10:00-12:30 p.m.: General Session. Dr. Bruce Voeller

12:30-3:00 p.m.: Workshops

3:00-5:00 p.m.: Final Session. Kay Whitlock

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL JOE BURNS AT 437-2642

Our January 29 meeting (NOTE: 5th Sunday instead of 4th) will present Dr. Francis Ringer to speak on "Theology and Homosexuality". Currently Associate Professor of Theology at Lancaster Theological Seminary of the United Church of Christ, Dr. Ringer is expert in the areas of the Third World, Human Sexuality and Evangelism. He has served resident parishes and inner-city ghettos for 23 years, has taught at Drexel and Kutztown, written two books and numerous articles, traveled frequently in Latin America and most recently been visiting professor for six months at the Biblical Seminary in San Jose, Costa Rica. In the field of Human Sexuality, Dr. Ringer has been involved in Sexuality panels and workshops throughout Pennsylvania and has attended workshops of the Medical School of the University of Minnesota. Don't miss !

NEWS AND NOTES*****Muhlenberg College sociology professor Frank McVeigh, leading local spokesman against gay rights, was heard by a Muhlenberg class in debate with Dr. William Jennings, Religion professor at the college, on November 28. While arranged by the Muhlenberg Christian Association for the students, it also drew a few Citizens Organized for Decency members who had been notified of the debate. According to reports, Jennings came out slightly ahead, although he was not previously familiar with McVeigh's arguments and "logic". The handful of C.O.D. members among the 100 present reportedly told Jennings they had never heard his side of the coin before. Much of Jennings's position was drawn from McNeill's The Church and the Homosexual and from Human Sexuality, the product of five Catholic scholars which accepts any form of sex that is "self-liberating, other-enriching, honest, faithful, socially responsible, life-serving and joyous".*****The December issue of Valley Monthly, in a witty and accurate "Best of the Lehigh Valley", lists for the category of gay bars: "BEST: The Stonewall. The Lehigh Valley at its most uninhibited--unless you know someplace else where you can find a seven-foot drag queen dressed as a carrot. WORST: Any Lehigh Fraternity."*****At the recent International Women's Year conference in Houston, participants overwhelmingly endorsed the gay rights plank in proposals to be submitted to the President and Congress. Roslynn Carter, Betty Ford, and Ladybird Johnson all supported the entire package, with Ford especially singling out the gay rights issue for a statement of support.*****A recent Time Magazine-Yankelovich poll provided some information about public sentiment about gay issues. Asked whether sex between consenting homosexuals was morally wrong, 47% said yes, 43% no, and 10% were undecided. 56% said they would vote for legislation guaranteeing the civil rights of gay people. 59%-70% favor the rights of gay people to live where they choose, to run for elective office, and to serve in the armed forces. 48% were against gay teachers, 44% favorable. 70% believed there should be no law regulating sexual practices among consenting adults but curiously favored the elimination of laws regulating what kinds of sexual practices are acceptable and legal by only 49% to 42%.*****In addition to a recent engagement at Lehigh University, members of LE-HI-HO's Speakers Bureau gave presentations in the last month to discussion series at both Kutztown and Lafayette Colleges.*****The type of anti-gay scare tactics generally not seen since the 50's popped up in the October issue of Harper's. In his article "The Culture of Appeasement", Norman Podhoretz portrays a current pacifism in this country as "the dangerous legacy of Vietnam" by drawing a broad parallel with the decline of the British Empire between world wars. He sees the British pacifism that paved the way for Hitler as distinctly related to the widespread homosexual/pacifist culture that blossomed after World War I. "No wonder", he says, "then, that so many of those who resented their own country to the point of pledging never to fight for it and even, in a few instances, to the point of joining forces with its enemies, should have been, or should have chosen to become, homosexuals." According to Podhoretz, by refusing fatherhood, male homosexuals are refusing responsibility for the destiny of society as a whole, and sees this as being the attitude of "homosexual apologetics in America today". The parallel to Fascism is, of course, Communism.

We would like to remind you that LE-HI-HO, while having no membership dues and charging nothing for this newsletter, still has expenses to meet to further its social, educational and political goals. The Treasury is currently somewhat depleted and any contributions via mail or in the basket at meetings will be gratefully accepted.

*****HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS! *****